

The newly named “Spirit of the Dart” RNLI inshore lifeboat was called out practically before the champagne had dried.

The need for a RNLI inshore lifeboat on the Dart was again shown as she was called out twice on the day of her naming ceremony. The second launch was witnessed by many of the five hundred guests and supporters who had come to Coronation Park, Dartmouth, on Saturday 2nd August for the naming of the new lifeboat and the official opening of the Dart Lifeboat Station.



Cartoon by JAMES FENTON



Left: Mrs Barbara Felton assisted by Master William Smith name the new lifeboat.

Below: Mike Felton is thanked by the RNLI team

The lifeboat, helmed by Andy Pomeroy and crewed by Yorkie Lomas and Matt Studd, was then launched and gave a display to the hundreds gathered on the North Embankment to watch. No sooner had the crew returned to join the spectators for a well deserved cream tea in the lifeboat station when the pagers sounded for the second time in the day. Not surprisingly the time from the launch request from the Coastguard to the boat being in the water was two minutes. This time the task was to search the shoreline of the Dart from Stoke Gabriel to Mill Point for an elderly infirm lady reported as missing. The search was subsequently called off when the lady was found by the Mobile Coastguard unit at Mill Pool.

Photos by PAUL RICHARDS

The £29,000 lifeboat was donated by Caterfoods SW and handed over to Mr Jonathan Ball, Trustee of the RNLI, by their Chairman Mr. Mike Felton. Rob Clements accepted the new boat on behalf of the local Dart lifeboat team.

Following a short religious service led by Rev. Simon Wright, Vicar of Dartmouth and Dittisham and Chaplain to the Dart lifeboat, the new lifeboat was named “Spirit of the Dart” by Mrs. Barbara Felton. She was assisted by William Smith, a pupil of St John the Baptist Primary School Dartmouth,

whose suggestion for a name had been chosen by Mr. and Mrs. Felton.

The Dart Lifeboat Station was then officially opened by Cllr. Debbie Morris, Dartmouth Town Mayor. In her speech she paid tribute to the dedication of the volunteers and said, “It is due to the enthusiasm of the local RNLI committee and those who have contributed so magnificently to the Appeal, including those in the local villages, that the funding for the Dart lifeboat and Lifeboat Station have been achieved in so short a time.”



Rob Clements. Dart Lifeboat Operations Manager.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I speak for the crew and shorehelpers of Dart Lifeboat station and thank you for the lifeboat. She will be well used, well cared for and loved while she is on service at this station.

I too am proud of what we have achieved as a team. From the first ideas of re-starting a lifeboat on the river Dart, to forming a crew, training and finally our first rescue back in December; this station has come a long way.

Everyone on the team, everyone a volunteer, has played a part and it is great to know there are so many people who are all dedicated to making this lifeboat station a success.

The RNLI have seen fit to entrust us with this wonderful lifeboat for which we are truly grateful but I know that a lifeboat is only as good as the crew that man her.

Our people have put their heart and soul into becoming an efficient life-saving team. Many many hours practicing their drills, navigation, pilotage, first aid, launch and recovery and just forming a good working team.

Fundraisers have done a magnificent job and are as much part of the station as the lifeboat herself – often seen as behind the scene staff but



Photo by PAUL RICHARDS

not here – they are very much a part of our team and our station.

You will see us on the river a lot, often just on a training exercise, sometimes responding to a call for help.

Please remember that we are your lifeboat, your lifeboat station. We still your need support and you are always welcome to come to come and visit.

Thank you.



Above: The Dart Operations Team



Above: Cllr Debbie Morris opens the new lifeboat station

Photos by PAUL RICHARDS

Our Appeal Exceeds its Target But There is No Room for Complacency

Our appeal for funds to set up our new Dart lifeboat station has been an enormous success. Not only have we reached our target of £259,000 we have now exceeded it. At the time of writing our appeal fund stands at £282,212.

The establishment of our new station has been made possible through the enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers in Dartmouth, Kingswear and Totnes and the generous donations made by members of the public, businesses, charitable trusts, clubs, event organizers and other organizations. Through our appeal for funds, they have all answered our call for help. The result is a new RNLI facility for saving lives on the River Dart and in coastal waters and for providing sea safety advice

through education, which we hope will serve the community for years to come. We are very grateful for all your support.

Our appeal to meet the set up costs of our new station will close on a highly successful note on 1 September 2008. Any residual funds in the appeal account will be used for the operational maintenance of this station and our volunteer crew.

Despite the completion of the appeal we will still need your help to fund the annual running costs of the station, which will be in excess of £30,000 per annum. We will need to maintain the boathouse, service the lifeboat and associated equipment and continue to train our crew, some of whom come from a non-maritime

background. On average we spend £1000 each year on every crewmember to ensure their skills through training are of the very highest standard and that they are all equipped to meet any eventuality that they may face in saving lives on the water.

So the RNLI's Dart lifeboat station will continue to need your help in the years to come. Your valuable support and contribution in whatever form it might take will mean that we can go on following our proud tradition of saving lives on the water and providing sea safety education. Thank you.

David Hannah, RNLI Appeals Manager.



Written for a new lifeboat crew

It is one of the last decent acts
 On the planet
 To be a member of a lifeboat crew
 It's about giving all to receive nothing
 Except the feeling of reward
 For what it is you may do
 It's about the total love of your fellows
 No matter whom they may be
 And putting bravery away above glory
 Then pitting your wits against the sea
 Whilst going into harm's way
 Whenever it is required
 With only those who you might trust
 For company
 It's about being honest with yourself
 For the sake of a tradition
 And rising through training and skill
 Above one's own true sense of fear
 And it's about knowing that a total stranger
 Will hang on and on, secure in the knowledge
 That the lifeboat will soon be here!

Written on the commissioning of the Dart Lifeboat and Station! - Kevin Pyne

Photo by PAUL RICHARDS



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Future events.

Wednesday 27th August until the evening of Saturday 30th August the RNLI travelling simulator will be at the Regatta. It will give you a chance to be on the bridge and operate a Severn class All Weather Lifeboat on a rescue mission and to hear about what the RNLI is doing on the Dart.

Thursday 28th August until the evening of Saturday 30th August the Dart Lifeboat Station on Coronation Park will be open to the public to view the new lifeboat, buy RNLI souvenirs and meet members of the team.

Tuesday 21st October. Trafalgar night celebration at The Royal Castle Hotel, Dartmouth. Tickets will be available from Monday October 6th from Mrs Anna Perry, tel. 01803 832393



Photo by PAUL RICHARDS



Photo by PAUL RICHARDS



Photo by JOHN FENTON

Above: Coronation Park August 2nd 2008

Left and far left: Helm Andy Pomeroy and crew Yorkie Lomas and Matt Studd put the IB1 through her paces for the naming ceremony spectators

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor, I have always found the newsletters most informative, but feel that you should date each one. I had only recently realised that the D class lifeboat in the title means that the newsletter is called Dart D Tales. Mrs K Powell, Exeter.

(I suspect that you are not the only one to have missed that subtle play on words! – Editor)

Haydn Glanvill, 43, has been an active volunteer with the lifeboat team since August 2006. Many of the crew members bring added skills to the boat and Haydn has been a frontline ambulance Paramedic for sixteen years and flying with Devon Air Ambulance as a paramedic for eight.

The lifeboat carries a well thought out First Aid kit as well as Oxygen, splints and neck braces. He is able to top up the knowledge of the ten crew members who attended the ten evening First Aid course run by the mobile RNLI team from Poole.

This Regatta will be the first Haydn has not taken part in for many years. He will be in Ecuador as a voluntary participant in Ben Fogle's "Extreme Dreams". In the next series on BBC3



Photo by JOHN FENTON

the teams of five have been drawn from the caring professions under the title of "Those who help others" His episodes will be shown in January 2009 – if it doesn't end in a nightmare!

Dart RNLI contacts

Lifeboat Operations Manager.

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Chairman Management Team.

Robin Shiffner. Tel 01803 835853

Chairman Fund raising Team.

Terry Knight. Tel 01803 834933

Boathouse Manager.

Bob Thomas. Mobile 07980 099 932

Administrator and Press Officer.

John Fenton Tel. 01803 770761

Dart Lifeboat Station.

Tel. 01803 839224

Please do not ring this number if you think a launch is in progress.

Details of our first eleven Launches, recent and forthcoming events, as well as information on the new IB1 D class lifeboat can be found on the local RNLI web site. Notices are also posted on the Notice Boards in Market Square and on the Lifeboat Station.

www.dartmouth-lifeboat.org.uk